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DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know whether we cannot combine these two systems of medicine in the same institution and teach every student both Allopathy and Indigenous Medicine? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is what is being done, Sir. I would request the hon. gentleman to visit the hospital and see for himself what is done there."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Then, why should we have a College of Indigenous Medicine? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Because people want it. They think this medicine is cheap. They have faith in Ayurveda and it is available in the rural areas easily."

Age-limit for superannuation of Honorary Medical Officers.

* 172 Q.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the age-limit for superannuation of Honorary Medical Officers in the State of Madras; and

(*b*) whether any exception has been made to the rule, and if so, the consideration which led to the exception, if any?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) No age-limit has been fixed. But Honorary Medical Officers who have attained the age of 55 years and who wish to continue in service have to produce a certificate of physical fitness.

" (*b*) Yes, Sir. Now and then persons who had attained 55 years of age, had to be appointed as Honorary Medical Officers, as there were no other applicants to the posts or in view of the post-graduate qualification and experience of the officers concerned."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Is not the age of superannuation as mentioned in the rules published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, 60 years? If so, why people over sixty years are appointed? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There may be one or two such cases."

DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Why, Sir? Is it because suitable people are not available or because the Government wanted to appoint superannuated people willy-nilly? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said that people with high post-graduate qualifications and teaching experience are selected in cases where other suitable candidates are not available."

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DR. A. SREENIVASAN :—" Did not the Selection Committee reject the applications of very many people for the reason they had reached the age of superannuation, even though they possessed the highest qualifications in the country? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That depends on the availability of applicants in each case."

Admission of in-patients in the Government Headquarters Hospital, South Arcot district.

* 173 Q.—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of in-patients admitted in the Government Headquarters Hospital, South Arcot district, now;

(b) the average number of out-patients attending the hospital daily; and

(c) the number of doctors, nurses, male nursing orderlies, sanitary workers and female nursing orderlies working in the hospital?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The average in-patient attendance for the three years ended with 1954, was 289.

" (b) The average attendance was 577.

" (c)	Doctors	12	
	Nurses	21	(excluding one nursing Superintendent and two head nurses.)
	Nursing Orderlies.	22	(12 men and 10 women.)
	Toties ..	13 "	

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" Is it not a fact that the Government have decided to increase the bed strength in that hospital and if so, by how many? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There has been a proposal to increase the bed strength in the case of several hospitals. Increase in the bed strength is effected where there is an urgent need for it consistent with the availability of funds."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" May I know the number of honorary women medical officers in that hospital? "

THE HON. A. B. SHETTY :—" I have given the total number of doctors. I cannot now give the particulars asked for."

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" Will the Government consider the question of appointing honorary women doctors if they apply? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Wherever it is considered necessary, we appoint honorary women doctors. If suitable people are available it is done."